



## Intimations.

**DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA, LIMITED, CHEMISTS.**

## AERATED WATERS.

OUR plant comprises the latest improvements, and is one of the most complete and efficient ever shipped from England. The purity of the water is certified by analysts. The construction of the machinery and system of manufacture in force ensures cleanliness and absence of all contamination in the finished waters.

The quality of the Soda Water is equal to that of the best English makers. The Flavour of the syrups waters is equal to any produced in England or abroad. Soda and Aerated Water supplied in Bombay sized bottles only, unless the ordinary size is specially ordered.

Coast Port Orders carefully packed and despatched by first steamer after receipt of order.

(Telephone No. 60.)

Nos. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL. DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA, LIMITED. Hongkong, 28th April, 1890.

## WINES AND SPIRITS.



**A. S. WATSON & CO., LD**  
(ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.)  
HONGKONG.

WE invite attention to the following old landed brands, all of which are of excellent quality and good value for the money. The same being specially selected by our London House, and bought direct from the most noted Shippers, are imported in wood and bottled by ourselves, thus enabling us to supply the best growths at moderate prices.

1890 In ordering it is only necessary to state the name and quantity of Wine or Spirit wanted, and initial letter for quality desired.

Orders through Local Post or by Telegram receive prompt attention.

PORTS. (For Invalids and general use.)

Per Doz.	Case.	Per Bot.
A	Alto Douro, good quality, Green Capsule.....	\$10 1.00
B	Vintage Superior quality, Red Capsules.....	12 1.10
C	Fine Old Vintage, superior quality, Black Seal Capsule.....	14 1.25
D	Very Fine Old Vintage, extra superior, Violet Capsule (Old Bottled).....	18 1.50
SHERRIES.		
A	Delicate Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Capsule.....	6 0.60
B	Superior Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Capsule.....	7.50 0.75
C	Manzanilla, Pale, Natural Sherry, White Capsule.....	10 1.00
CC	Superior Old Dry, Pale Natural Sherry, Red Seal Capsule.....	10 1.00
D	Very Superior Old Pale Dry, choice Old Wine, White Seal Capsule.....	14 1.50
E	Extra Superior Old Pale Dry, very finest quality, Black Seal Capsule (Old Bottled).....	14 1.50

Per Doz.	Case.	Per Bot.
A	Superior Breakfast Claret, Red Capsule.....	\$4 0.40
B	St. Estephe, Red Capsule.....	5.00 0.50
C	St. Julien, Red Capsule.....	7.50 0.75
D	La Rose, Red Capsule.....	11 1.10

Per Doz.	Case.	Per Bot.
A	Hennessy's Old Pale, Red Capsule.....	\$12 1.20
B	Superior Very Old Cognac, Red Capsule.....	14 1.25
C	Very Old Cognac, Red Capsule.....	18 1.50
D	Hennessy's Finest Very Old Liqueur Cognac, 1872 Vintage, Red Capsule.....	24 2.00

Per Doz.	Case.	Per Bot.
A	Thorne's Blend, White Capsule.....	8 0.75
B	Watson's Glenorchy Mellow Blend, Blue Capsule with Name and Trade Mark.....	8 0.75
C	Watson's Aboulo-Glenlivet, Red Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark.....	8 0.75
D	Watson's H K D Blend of the Finest Scotch Malt Whiskies, Violet Capsule.....	10 1.00
E	Watson's Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky, Gold Capsule.....	12 1.20

Per Doz.	Case.	Per Bot.
A	John Jameson's Old, Green Capsule.....	8 0.75
B	John Jameson's Fine Old, Green Capsule.....	10 1.00
C	John Jameson's Very Fine Old, Green Capsule.....	12 1.20
D	Old, Green Capsule.....	12 1.20

Per Doz.	Case.	Per Bot.
A	Fine Old Tom, White Capsule.....	4.50 0.40
B	Fine Unweathered, White Capsule.....	4.50 0.40
C	Fine A. V. H. Geneva.....	4.50 0.50

Per Doz.	Case.	Per Bot.
A	Finest Old Jamaica, Violet Capsule.....	12 1.00
B	Good Leward Island.....	\$1.50 per Gallon.

Per Doz.	Case.	Per Bot.
A	Benedictine Maraschino.....	12 1.00
B	Curacao Herring's Cherry Cordial.....	12 1.00
C	Chartreuse Dr. Siegel's Angostura Bitters, &c.....	12 1.00

## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, Hongkong Telegraph" and not to the Editor.

Letters or Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor" and not to individual members of the staff.

Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

While the columns of the Hongkong Telegraph will always be open for the fair discussion by correspondents of all questions affecting public interests, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for opinions thus expressed.

## TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisements are required to forward all notices intended for insertion in that day's issue not later than three o'clock, so as not to retard the early publication of the paper.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

The Hongkong Telegraph has the largest circulation of any English newspaper published in the Far East, and is therefore the best medium for Advertisers. Terms can be obtained on application.

The Hongkong Telegraph's number at the Telephone Central Exchange is No. 5.

## TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers to The Hongkong Telegraph are respectfully requested that all Subscriptions be payable in advance.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1890.

## TELEGRAMS.

## UNITED STATES.

LONDON, April 22nd.  
The Free Coinage Party is preparing a fresh bill to limit the issue of silver notes to silver produced in the States.

## FRANCE IN AFRICA.

April 24th.  
The King of Dahomey has driven back the French punitive expedition.

## GERMANY.

The Emperor, speaking at Bremerhaven, asked that confidence be placed in him to maintain peace to which end all his efforts are devoted.  
The Queen of England has had a splendid reception at Darmstadt.

## TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS.

April 30th.  
Surefoot ..... 1  
Le Nord ..... 2  
Blue Green ..... 3

## GETTING ON.

The House of Commons has read the Deceased Wife's Sisters' Bill a second time.

## AFRICA.

May 1st.  
Treaties have been concluded with the King and other Chiefs placing Uganda solely under the influence of the British Company.

(From the *Voz de España*).

## JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES.

MADRID, April 25th.  
A powerful Spanish syndicate has been formed here for the purpose of establishing commercial relations on a grand scale between Japan and the Philippines.

## THE TYPHOON.

Dr. Dobereck states in his weather report today that, "the small depression appears to be situated in about 15° N, 116° E and to be moving north-westwards. Directions to hoist the Red Cone pointing downwards were issued at 12.30 p.m. to-day."

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s extra steamer *Thidest* left Bombay for this port at 9 a.m. yesterday.

TO-MORROW morning between 9 and 10.30 o'clock the steam launch carrying the Belber flag will call alongside any vessel hoisting code pennant C, to convey men ashore to 11 a.m. service at St. Peter's Seamen's Church, returning about 12.30.

THE Band of the A. & S. Highlanders will play the following programme in the Public Gardens, on Monday, the 5th inst., from 8.30 till 10 p.m. (Weather permitting):—

Overture.....	"Titus".....	Mosart.
Waltz.....	"Die Hydropaten".....	Gungl.
Selection.....	"Reminiscences of Scotland".....	Godfrey.
Dance.....	"Pompeuse".....	Callier.
Waltz.....	"La Toscana".....	Bucalossi.

## PIPER'S PROGRAMME.

March.....	McLeod's March
Strathspey.....	Trell Gow,
Reel.....	Old Donald Duncan,
March.....	The Highland Fling,
March.....	The Glasgow Gaelic Club,

WHILST a distinguished party were crossing the bar of the Pahang River, last week, they saw what appeared to be the formation of a water spout; from the sky there appeared a huge streak of what seemed to be a black cloud having a straight downward course towards the sea, from whence there appeared a curious upheaval of the water which was whirled round and round at a terrific rate, throwing its spray in all directions some two or three hundred yards away. This water spout seemed to be travelling over Singapore at a great speed, for within two or three minutes after first sighting it had vanished out of view.

Mr. Omar Thomas, of North Haven, has invented an apparatus for spreading oil on the waves during a gale of wind. Mr. Thomas, who was formerly a sailor, says the great difficulty in the use of oil in a storm at sea is that when spread on the surface the wind blows it to leeward and the effect is lost. His device is to obviate this difficulty. It consists of a mortar and bomb, filled with oil. On the side toward the muzzle, as it lies in the mortar, is an aperture closed by a hinged cover, fitted tightly and fastened with a sort of a latch. The latch is so constructed that when the mortar is discharged the pressure of the air releases it. But the aperture in the shell is not opened until it strikes the water and sinks beneath the surface. The shell is so weighted that as it sinks the aperture is uppermost, and the cover is lifted by the pressure of the oil upon it. Thus the oil is released well beneath the surface, and rises through the waves, producing the life-saving effectual results. It is believed that life-saving crews, supplied with apparatus, could smooth the waters about a stranded wreck so that it would be possible to board it when it could be done by no other means.

Says a writer in the *Forum*:—The highest court of the United States, whose centennial commemoration is at hand, holds a unique place in our form of government and one not found in any other governmental system. It wields a power greater than is exercised by any other judicial tribunal in the world. "In no country of Europe or the East has any court authority to make or unmake the supreme law of the land, to limit the prerogative of the sovereign, to control the powers of the legislature, to shape the form of government. These functions are exercised by the Supreme Court of the United States. It holds a power above that of the chief magistrate of the nation, superior to that of Congress, higher than that of any State, and equal only by that which made or can amend the Constitution. It can enlarge or limit the prerogatives of the President or the powers of Congress. It can change the relations between the State and the nation. It can extend or restrict either the central power or State sovereignty. In short, it can make or unmake the constitutional law of the country. It can introduce radical changes into our form of government. Not only can the Supreme Court wield these vast powers, it has long done so and may long continue to do so."

On and after to-morrow, the evening service at St. John's Cathedral will begin at 5 p.m., instead of at 5.45 p.m., till further notice.

THE Military Mummies will repeat their dramatic entertainment at the Garrison Theatre, this evening. Punkahs and pleasure for a dollar.

An Emergency meeting of Zealand Lodge, No. 125, E.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, on Monday, the 12th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

LORD Arthur Somerset's name has been removed from the Army List, the Commission of the Peace, and the military pension-list. He recently applied for the post of Master of Horse to the Sultan, but his reputation was too "high" even for Turkey. "Look here, Somerset," said his commanding-officer the former "cleared;" "you must stand your trial over this business, or blow your brains out like a man." Somerset elected to do neither.

ART in Hongkong ought to get an impetus. Mr. Stanley Seton, an accomplished painter in both oils and water-colors, with a weakness for pastels, has set up his easel in the tents of Signor Cattaneo, and has already secured the interest of the leading amateurs, besides recruiting many students from the Sketching Club. Parisian and purchases will be made in an inspection of his studio highly interesting, the few examples on view being of a really high-class order.

QUITE an unusual number of opium cases were 'put through' this morning at the Police Court, when some pretty stiff fines were imposed by Mr. Robinson. Two old native doctors subscribed \$15 between them, while others were asked to ante up sums ranging from ten to thirty dollars each. Most of the delinquents pleaded guilty to the charge of being in possession of prepared opium without permit. This morning's preparation should prove a warning to pufflers of the fragrant drug.

THE Sanitary Board held a big meeting yesterday afternoon. The following business was done:—A letter from the Colonial Secretary with reference to the recommendations of the Board on the Fever Commission's recommendations was read. The letter stated that the scheme recommended, would be carried into effect for the sub-soil and main drainage of the upper districts, provided that no financial impediments occurred, and that no steps would be taken to stop earth-cutting.—The 1889 report of the Sanitary Superintendent was discussed. Principally referred to hawkers and drains.—The Water Bill was considered at length, and agreed to.

As I have said elsewhere, the journalist must be spicy, lively and bright, says Max O'Reil in the *North American Review*. We must know how not merely to report, but to relate in a racy, catching style an accident, a trial, a conflagration, and be able to make up an article of one or two columns upon the most insignificant incident. He must be interesting, readable. His eyes and ears must be always open, every one of his senses on the alert, for he must keep ahead in this wild race for news. He must be a good conversationalist on most subjects, so as to bring back to his interviews with different people a good store of materials. He must be a man of courage to brave rebuffs. He must be a philosopher to pocket abuse. He must be a man of honor, and I have always found him so. Whenever I have begged a reporter to kindly abstain from mentioning this or that which might have been said in conversation with him I have invariably found that he kept his word. But if the matter is of public interest, he is before all and above all the servant of the public. So never challenge his spirit of enterprise or he will leave no stone unturned until he has found your secret and exhibited it to the public.

A CORRESPONDENT of a New York Journal, who describes himself as "a man of mature years, but of limited social experience," wants to know "if there is any trustworthy record as to the origin and practice of kissing? I have been told," he says, "that every tribe of people that has been found anywhere in the world are addicted to the practice. I should like to know if that is so, and also who were the first people to begin kissing." So far as our investigations show, the first kiss on record is the ocular salute between Isaac and his son Jacob, mentioned in Genesis xlvii, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that Isaac had kissed the mother many times before he exchanged kisses with the son. The ancient Hebrews seem to have reduced kissing to an exact science, and to have given it a nomenclature. We find from the Old Testament that they had the kiss of homage, of submission, of reconciliation, of approbation, of welcome, of love and joy, of sorrow, of peace, of idolatrous worship, of valediction, of gratitude and many others. We read also in the Scripture of hypocritical kisses, like that bestowed by Jacob on Ananias, when about to slay him; and worst of all, of the treacherous salute by which Judas betrayed the Saviour. The primitive Christians interchanged kisses before receiving the communion, as a token of religious fellowship. An attempt was made some years ago at a certain place of worship in New York to revive the practice, but owing to "modern degeneracy" or some other cause, the "kissing church" was far from being a moral and religious success. Scandal's venomous tongue soon began to wag against the brethren and sisters, and the experiment was given up. It is a pity that great tribe of people indulge in kissing. Some of the lower tribes do not seem to know anything about that "token of affection," which is so dear to the more enlightened races. But among people who have risen a little above the savage state, it seems that kissing, as Dogberry says of reading and writing, "comes by nature."

## THE EAST BORNEO PLANTING CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary meeting of the shareholders of the above Company was held at noon to-day. Mr. B. Layton presided, and Messrs. W. H. Ray, W. Judd, S. L. Darby, C. A. Osorio, C. F. Harton (secretary) and others were present.

The Chairman mentioned that the scheme for doubling the capital had fallen through, and the directors had therefore decided to issue debentures. He proposed the first resolution—That the Resolutions passed at the Extraordinary Meeting of Shareholders held on the 13th day of March, 1890, and confirmed at the Extraordinary Meeting of Shareholders held on the 29th day of March, 1890, be, and they are hereby, cancelled. Mr. Judd, seconded, and it was agreed to. The Chairman then proposed "That the Directors be and they are hereby authorized to borrow the sum of \$50,000, by the creation and issue of Debentures providing for the payment of principal sums not exceeding the sum of \$50,000, with interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, such Debentures to be in such form and to be secured in such manner and to be issued to such persons and on such terms as the Directors think expedient." Mr. Ray seconded, and that resolution having passed, the proceedings terminated, pending a confirmatory meeting.

## THE BONHAM STRAND FIRE.

Mr. Wedhouse commenced an inquiry, at the Magistrate's Court, into the circumstances attending the fire in Bonham Strand West, yesterday morning. Mr. Wotton appeared on behalf of the Lubbeck Insurance Company, the General Fire Insurance Company, and the North German Insurance Company, who had insured the goods, furniture, and contents of No. 68 Bonham Strand to the extent of \$10,000; \$15,000; and \$16,000 respectively.

Tung Ah Ling, assistant accountant at the shop No. 68 Bonham Strand, said his room was on the left-hand side of the ground floor. The master and manager was Kwong Ping Chow, who occupied a room on the first floor. Other accountants slept on the second and third floors. He was in the shop on Thursday night. Between 9 and 10 p.m. the doors were shut for the night, when he retired to bed. The master was not at home, having gone out at 6 o'clock and handed witness his keys, because he supposed people might call and ask for money. The accountant went into the country about ten days ago. Witness was the chief employé left on the premises. Some of the books he put in a box, and others were left on the counter, just before he went to bed. There were some candles stopping in the house. The lights in the shop on the ground floor were put out, but witness did not know whether there were any lights on the first floor or not. Between one and two a.m. he saw fire in a store-room at back part of the premises on the first floor. He at once took away the insurance policy, some money, and all the books he could get hold of. There were others sleeping on the ground floor, but he was the first to awake. When he had taken the books &c. he ran out of the shop, and did not return until about 4 a.m. He saw the fire on the staircase of first and ground floors. There were about thirty people in the shop on the night of the fire who occupied the ground, second, and third floors. Nobody was on the first floor—only the master slept there, when at home. Witness saved twenty-three books altogether; sixteen of them belonged to his master and the others to the King Cheung. The King Cheung books belonged to his father whose shop is in Hoihow. The business of the shop in Bonham Strand consisted of buying and selling goods on commission. He did not know what became of the book showing consignments. It was probably left in the box on the ground floor. All the books produced were taken from the counter. None of them came from the book box. As regarded the store book, showing what goods were stored in their own and other godowns, he did not know where it was; but it was certainly put in the box on the day of the fire. He saw it in the box. In the absence of the accountant he made entries in the store book. He took the books straight to the Tong Shing Tang shop as soon as he observed the fire, after personally packing them in a cloth. He took about two or three hundred dollars away out of about \$500. He left about four hundred behind in the safe because he was in a great hurry. He took the key away. He unlocked the safe to get the money out but did not remember whether he locked it up or not when he took a bundle of insurance policies from the safe. There were no valuables in the drawers of the safe. The money and policies were all in a small basket in the safe. When he took the policies out of the safe he tied them around his waist after putting them in a cloth bag which was hanging in the room. The money rescued he also carried in the bag, together with the policies. There was a man hanging up into which he put all the bills, books &c., and carried them away at all. He did not touch the box at all. He left the money in the safe because he was in a great hurry. He would have taken all the money away had it been possible to put the basket which contained the money into the bag. All the money was in notes. He gave the big containing the policies and money to the manager the day after the fire. He did not see the manager on the night of the fire. He left the bag at the Tong Shing Tang shop that night. The master came there next day when he gave the bag to him. He awoke the two folks sleeping on the ground floor by calling out "fire." He did not observe when the other folks went out. After coming to the Tong Shing shop he did not again see the folks, and did not know where they went that night. A coolie and a cook sleeping on the front part of the ground floor carried the books away along with him. The servant ran up stairs and awoke the other people as soon as he was aroused.

Kwan Hing stated that he had been 'cook' at the Sun Chong Wo shop since last year. His wages were \$3 a month. He usually slept on the ground floor. He was asleep on the ground floor on the night of the fire, and was awakened by a servant crying "fire" from the second floor. Tung Ah Ling, the sub-accountant, was in the room next to the shop. He went to him and assisted in packing the books. Some of them were in the box and others were in the cloth packed up. The box was on the top of the counter and at one side of same. The books which were put up were on the chair in the accountant's room. He saw him in the street packing up the books. His idea of the origin of the fire was that someone had gone to the store during the night and some sparks had fallen from the light on to the goods. It could not have been caused by any fire in the cook-house.

Wong Ping Chao stated that he was master and partner of the shop. He was in the shop up to about 5 o'clock p.m. on the night in question. He had hemp, hides, hazel-nut, preserved fruits, and seeds stored on the ground floor. On the first floor he had hemp, preserved fruit, and various sundries. On the second floor he had hemp. All the goods together were worth about \$40,000. At this juncture the inquiry was adjourned until Friday next.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

## THE ALICE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." DEAR SIR,—I have received \$50 from Mr. Bayer Chaudron for the funds of the Hospital.

Yours faithfully,  
E. W. MAITLAND,  
Hon. Treasurer,  
Alice Memorial Hospital.

Hongkong, 3rd May, 1890.

## A PARACHUTIST AT SINGAPORE.

Mr. Percival Spencer, the well known aeronaut and parachutist, arrived in Singapore on the 28th ult., per steamship *Wing Sang* from Calcutta, and (says the *Free Press*) intends during his stay to give one of those aerial performances which have caused such a sensation among the hundreds of thousands of spectators who have witnessed them during his Indian tour.

We are informed that Mr. Spencer will also give balloon ascent and parachute descents at Batavia and other Dutch towns, Hongkong, Shanghai and Nagasaki, the desideratum of course being that the places visited have facilities for supplying the gas required to inflate the balloons, although if necessary Mr. Spencer is prepared to manufacture the necessary supplies of hydrogen in the absence of a gas company.

The following extracts from the *Calcutta Englishman* give an excellent idea of Mr. Spencer's aeronautic methods, and will enable our readers to realise the daring character of that gentleman's downward plunge from the vast elevation at which he leaps from his balloons.

"Would you mind describing in your own words how you manage your ascent and descent?"

"With pleasure. When the balloon leaves the earth, I am sitting on the trapeze-looking rope, and in my hands I have two things. One of these is the ring which forms the base of the parachute. You will observe, when you see me go up, that to this ring are attached a lot of cords, and to them again a piece of cloth, which is tacked to the netting of the balloon. That is all you can see of the parachute when I ascend."

"And during the leap? Do you know what is happening?"

"Perfectly! I count, from 'one' upwards at a measured rate, so that I can compare the distance with previous drops. There is, however, one very curious feeling I have, which astonished me very much at first. To the public who are looking on I seem, of course, to be hanging on to the ring just as I do when the parachute is inflated. But curiously enough, I am really holding it up. At first the ring has a tendency to fall quicker than I, so that though I am myself dropping like a stone, I am holding up the ring, which is in a second or two to supply me with support."

A common notion, which seems to be upset by the success of parachuting, is that a fall through the air of a hundred feet or so is necessarily fatal. Leaps of suicides from lofty bridges have been supposed to kill before the body reached the ground.

There can no longer be the slightest doubt, according to Mr. Spencer, upon this point. At Bombay, the other day, he dropped between 200 and 300 feet before the parachute opened, and this drop was to all intents and purposes a fall of that extent. Were there anything in the theory, the results in such a case would be asphyxiation.

"When falling 300 feet, what are your sensations? Is breathing difficult?"

"No! I am not at all. It is all over so quickly that there is hardly time to think. It is only a matter of a few seconds. When the parachute is detached the rush through the air is over so quickly that I can easily hold my breath for the time. This, indeed, can be done quite as easily as when diving in water. You can distinctly feel the uprush of air through your clothes, and the sensation is decidedly exhilarating. As for popular ideas of the danger of exhaustion in the course of the sudden drop, they are now disposed of for ever."

"Parachuting is, as yet, unappreciated as a pleasure, although I could say much of the glory of motion in gliding through the air, but not the least enjoyable part of the experience is at the start, which looks so terrible to those gazing upwards."

One of the phases of parachuting dwelt upon by Mr. Spencer was this easy motion through the air. After severing connexion with the balloon, hardly anything is felt, till a slight tug tells that the parachute is opened. This is preceded only by a few seconds of suspense, when the parachute is fully distended, the downward course is gradual and easy, the parachute still tilting and oscillating in a fairly strong wind.

And what is the advantage of parachuting? I mean, what is gained by being able to descend with or without risk, in this manner?

"The answer is simple: It is a distinct step in the direction of aerial navigation. You are thus supporting your entire weight in the air, and a simple adjustment of balance is all that is wanted to enable one to remain at any given level. It is easy to see, then, when the descent is effected with freedom and safety, we may look for a further development of parachuting in the direction of guiding and propelling the parachute through the air."

28th ult., per steamship *Wing Sang* from Calcutta, and (says the *Free Press*) intends during his stay to give one of those aerial performances which have caused such a sensation among the hundreds of thousands of spectators who have witnessed them during his Indian tour.

We are informed that Mr. Spencer will also give balloon ascent and parachute descents at Batavia and other Dutch towns, Hongkong, Shanghai and Nagasaki, the desideratum of course being that the places visited have facilities for supplying the gas required to inflate the balloons, although if necessary Mr. Spencer is prepared to manufacture the necessary supplies of hydrogen in the absence of a gas company. The following extracts from the *Calcutta Englishman* give an excellent idea of Mr. Spencer's aeronautic methods, and will enable our readers to realise the daring character of that gentleman's downward plunge from the vast elevation at which he leaps from his balloons.

"Would you mind describing in your own words how you manage your ascent and descent?"

"With pleasure. When the balloon leaves the earth, I am sitting on the trapeze-looking rope, and in my hands I have two things. One of these is the ring which forms the base of the parachute. You will observe, when you see me go up, that to this ring are attached a lot of cords, and to them again a piece of cloth, which is tacked to the netting of the balloon. That is all you can see of the parachute when I ascend."

"And during the leap? Do you know what is happening?"

"Perfectly! I count, from 'one' upwards at a measured rate, so that I can compare the distance with previous drops. There is, however, one very curious feeling I have, which astonished me very much at first. To the public who are looking on I seem, of course, to be hanging on to the ring just as I do when the parachute is inflated. But curiously enough, I am really holding it up. At first the ring has a tendency to fall quicker than I, so that though I am myself dropping like a stone, I am holding up the ring, which is in a second or two to supply me with support."

A common notion, which seems to be upset by the success of parachuting, is that a fall through the air of a hundred feet or so is necessarily fatal. Leaps of suicides from lofty bridges have been supposed to kill before the body reached the ground.

There can no longer be the slightest doubt, according to Mr. Spencer, upon this point. At Bombay, the other day, he dropped between 200 and 300 feet before the parachute opened, and this drop was to all intents and purposes a fall of that extent. Were there anything in the theory, the results in such a case would be asphyxiation.

"When falling 300 feet, what are your sensations? Is breathing difficult?"



**For Sale.**

**WATCH AND CHRONOMETER MANUFACTURERS AND JEWELLERS.**  
**NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS, CHARTS AND BOOKS.**  
No. 48, Queen's Road Central. 1742

---

Printed and Published by **ROBERT FRASER SMITH**,  
No. 6, Pedder's Hill, in the City of Victoria, Hongkong.